



# Apprenticeships Explained

## Intermediate

An intermediate apprenticeship is equivalent to five good GCSE passes. The apprentices work towards level 2 certificates or work-based learning qualifications. These provide the skills required for the apprentice's chosen career and allow entry to an advanced apprenticeship.

## Advanced

An advanced apprenticeship is equivalent to two A Level passes. Advanced apprentices can work towards level 3 work-based learning certificates or qualifications such as a BTEC. To start advanced apprenticeship programme, the applicant should ideally have five GCSEs at grade 4 (formerly grade C) or above or have completed an intermediate apprenticeship.

## Higher

A higher apprenticeship is a nationally accredited work-based programme designed to meet employers' needs at higher skill levels and include qualifications at a level equivalent to higher education (HE).

It offers a progression route from advanced apprenticeships. Higher apprentices gain a recognised professional qualification, technical knowledge, professional skills and wider business competencies. Higher apprenticeships are a different route to traditional university study since they combine working while studying for a work-based academic or vocational high-level qualification.

Higher apprenticeships offer the opportunity to gain qualifications at level 4 and above. These may include foundation degrees, honours degrees, HNCs or HNDs, sector-specific professional qualifications, and in some cases, masters degrees.

## Degree

Degree apprenticeships sit on level 6 or 7. Like the other levels they combine paid work with study in the university and lead to bachelor's or master's degree. Universities generally set the entry requirement for a degree apprenticeship at least level 3, for instance A Levels.